

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as indicated below. The paragraph numbers used herein correspond to those in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0272786.

Before the first line of paragraph [0001], please insert the following headings:

BACKGROUND

1. Field

Between the last line of paragraph [0001] and the first line of paragraph [0002], please insert the following heading:

2. Description of Related Art

Between the last line of paragraph [0010] and the first line of paragraph [0011], please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following replacement paragraph:
The method in accordance with the invention can be implemented with an apparatus comprising[.,.] an upright silo provided with supply of material and a supply of steam and with apparatus for the removal of gas, and a longitudinal vessel connected at a first one end thereof to the lower part of the silo. The longitudinal vessel is furnished with[.,.] means for conveying the material through ~~through~~ the vessel as a composed bed and means for removing the material from its second

end. The silo is here also referred to as the heating section and the longitudinal vessel is also referred to as the gas removal section. In one embodiment, the longitudinal The vessel is a tube-like construction positioned horizontally or slightly downwards inclined. The longitudinal vessel has a longitudinal dimension bigger than the cross-dimension thereof, and includes means or apparatus for transporting or conveying material through the longitudinal vessel. The conveying means or apparatus are positioned in the lower part of the longitudinal vessel and extend essentially along its total length. Steam supplying conduits are provided along the length of said longitudinal vessel. Also conduits for gas and condensate removal are provided.

Between the last line of paragraph [0013] and the first line of paragraph [0014], please insert the heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following replacement paragraph:

FIG. 1 illustrates, as a longitudinal cross sectional view, one embodiment of the apparatus applicable in practicing the invention,

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following replacement paragraph:

FIG. 2 illustrates, as a side view, an alternative embodiment of the apparatus, and

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following replacement paragraph:

FIG. 3 illustrates the embodiment of FIG. 1 as a transverse cross sectional view taken along section line A-A.

Between the last line of paragraph [0017] and the first line of paragraph [0018] please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC EMBODIMENTS

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following replacement paragraph:

The basic part of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1 is a longitudinal vessel 1, located horizontally. The longitudinal vessel 1 is also referred to as the gas removal section. The length of the longitudinal vessel is bigger than the cross-sectional dimension thereof. The longitudinal vessel 1 is equipped with conveying conveyor means 3 extending over its total length for transporting the bed of material fed to it from the first end of the vessel to the opposite end thereof. One embodiment of the conveying means is the conveyor described in more detail in FIG. 3.